

271 Bay St. #3
Orillia, ON
Canada L3V 3W9

March 2, 2007

To Jesse and Nick:

I thoroughly enjoyed our time together on Wednesday. Thinking about it afterwards I thought we did a fine job but was sorry we hadn't talked some about our teachers. They were mainly six fine women. The following is how I saw them:-

Miss Florence Somers was the head of the school. She was tall strong and kind in both body and spirit. I don't remember her teaching any of our classes but her presence was evident and reassuring. Before graduation she talked to each of us privately suggesting what she saw of our strengths and our weaknesses. One of my weaknesses was and still is, being too opinionated! When illness prevented my participation in our final demonstration Miss Somers sent me a large bouquet of roses; a kindness that moves me still.

Miss Charlotte Layton, I saw as the executive secretary of the school and Miss Somers' right hand "man". She concerned herself with each student as a person and was always ready to help us with our problems.

Miss Dorothy N.R. Jackson was a respected and distantly admired teacher of gymnastics, exercise classes (or should I say "Calisthenics") and swimming. I remember when we were perfecting our crawl stroke. We would hold onto the side of the pool and practice kicking and breathing timing while Miss Jackson sang "Three o'clock in the morning" and "one-two three; one-two-three" over and over again. When the Margaret Eaton School amalgamated with the University of Toronto Miss Jackson moved with the school. After graduation we heard of her winning competitions in ballroom dancing.

Mrs. Shirley Naylor taught tap dancing, folk dancing and singing games. She was closer to our age than the other teachers so we had a more familiar relationship to her. She was a gentle pleasant woman.

Mrs. Elizabeth Wardley Raymer taught health education, and physiology I think. I don't know how to describe her. I had a great deal of respect for her but didn't ever feel I knew who she was. She wrote a very beautiful long poem (a copy included) to which we danced an interpretation.

Mrs. Allen was a tall, graceful, beautiful woman. She taught modern dance and probably choreographed the movements for our interpretation of Mrs. Raymer's poem.

I don't remember who taught us anatomy at the University of Toronto - My main memory there was of dealing with actual cadavers.

I think it was in our first year that we had a short term of elocution with Mrs. Dora Mayvor Moore. There was an auditorium with stage in our building. I am presuming it was from the days when our building housed the Eaton's Girls Club and somewhere along the way there was the Margaret Eaton School of Literature and Expression. We performed on the stage reciting poetry as we learned to speak clearly, enunciate fully and project our voices. I remember reciting "To Lucasta on Going to the War" a dramatically romantic farewell ending with "I could not love thee dear, so much, Loved I not honour more."

I also remember that in my first job as Physical Education Director at Brantford YWCA at the age of 19, I was responsible for chaperoning young ladies to the armed forces camps near by. There was no way I could project my voice sufficiently to organize dances with so many men and no microphone. What a "shemozzle" that was!!

The only other teacher I remember was "Mr. Nature" whose real name I don't remember if I ever knew it. He was at Lake Couchiching camp in September of our first year. I think he taught us tennis and maybe archery and certainly Nature study.

I would remind you that all this is "As I saw it" from the memory of an old woman in her 85th year, about events 65 years ago. The accuracy of details is questionable because memory does play tricks!

(FRIENDLY slip!)

* In the 1941-1942 M.E.S. AMIES Miss Bayton in
M.E.S. Cavalcade gives the FACTS and DATES.

Florence

Life we were given a precious we hold
 We must strengthen That gift a hundred-fold—
 Strengthen That gift That we may live
 Fearlessly, surely, with something to give.
 Eagerly groping for her task
 These are The questions That youth must ask:

Show us a need we can fulfil
 Show us a sorrow we may distil
 Show us a weakness we can mend
 Show us the cause we must defend!

Show us the meaning and all of life
 Show us the way and point us a path
 Show us the things that are worthy and true
 Show us the things that we must do!

Now we see a world in sorrow
 Bravely marching toward the morrow
 Our young strength might strength renew
 Deep in the heart of that long review
 Marching, marching, into Time
 Find us places in that line!

Let us join the measured beat
 Which will take our eager feet
 On the path where trials meet
 Point out the foes we must defeat!

Life fill us with living; assign us our parts
 Try out our courage and test our young hearts
 Leave us not empty and fraught with despair
 Give us our burdens, our travail to bear!

Questioning, querying, begging, beseeching
 Into the future with eager hands reaching
 Tell us oh life, what we can do.
 These are the things we bring to you,

These are the gifts we have to bring
 To humbly place as offering—
 Arms that are strong and long to endure
 Feet that are steady and light and sure
 Ears that are tuned to life's voiceless cries
 Eyes that scan keenly life's worried skies
 Thoughts that are searching the mysterious blue
 Straining and yearning for life's greatest truths
 Love which compels us, holds us, and binds
 Us to our country, our people, our kind.

Questioning, querying, begging, beseeching
 Into the future our eager hands reaching
 These are the things we bring to you
 Tell us, oh Life, what can we do!

Elizabeth Wardley Raymer



FLORENCE SOMERS



ELIZABETH WARDLEY RAYMER



DOROTHY M. JACKSON



CHARLOTTE LAYTEN



SHIRLEY MAYLOR



MRS. ALLEN



DANCING MRS. RAYMER'S POEM 1942



Carol E. Duffus
156 Ridge Ave
Waverly NS B2R 1G4

July 19, 07

Dear John,

Thank you for the paper written by Nathan & Jessica as a result of their interviews with me earlier in the year. I enjoyed their talks very much. I believe some of their interviews were recorded but I remember there was a problem with the recording machine and as a result it looks like some of the conversation was not heard clearly or misinterpreted. Please forgive me if I suggest a few corrections, with their permission, so that the information going out on the web site is correct. I am loathe to correct or second sentences written by students and youth because their writing is quite charming. So on page 1 from line 8 - this is what I would like recorded - "she became an officer in the WRONS and worked in operations at the Dockyard in Halifax. In Aug. 1945 she retired from the Navy as Staff Officer - Training, to marry Lt. Allan F. Duffus. They settled in Halifax, later moving to Bedford & to Waverly where she now lives with her daughter Roslyn. Her husband died in 1997.

On page 5 - to clarify - "many of the students were considered at private & public camps in the summer months & then returned to the school ^{public school} to resume classes in camp activities at Tanamakan in Algonquin Park in the month of September."

On page 6 - delete "went on to"

Clarify Page 7 - This page needs rewriting as the facts are blurry. This is what it should relay - "To teach in the Ontario Public School system one had to have a teaching degree. That meant one more year of study, either at Teacher's College (OCE) in Toronto or at a university for a degree. That meant more expense ^{instead} so she decided to try a year of refereeing, teaching at YWCA's neighborhood houses, private schools & camps.

→ over

2

This proved to be unsustainable so she took a job with an insurance company in Toronto for 2 years. The war was on & she joined the W.R.O.S. in March 1943 as a probationary member at 85¢ a day! After basic training at Galt for 2 weeks she was posted to Ottawa for further training for a month as a cadet leader, ~~and~~ graduated as a probationary cadet leader and was posted to the 1st Airborne Division in England.

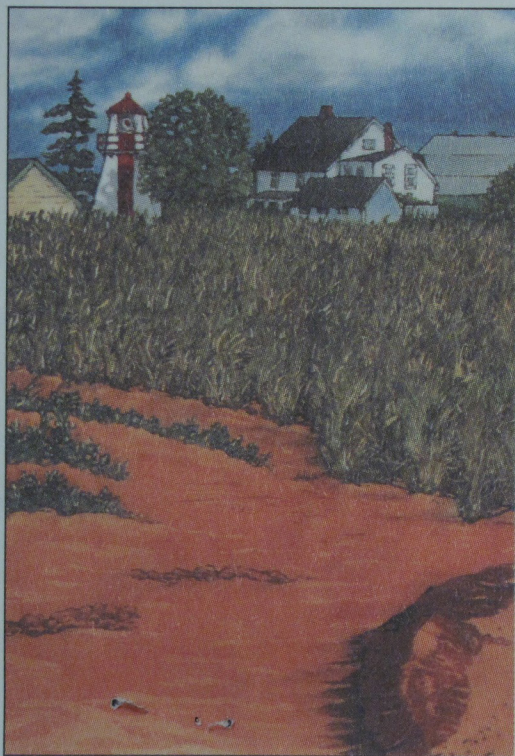
Still on Page 7 - clarify this - because she had to repeat the September camp in 1939 she didn't receive her diploma until Oct '39. Most of the jobs were filled by then except one which was available in a northern Ont. Catholic convent school at \$2.50 per month - which she declined!

The rest of the papers had a few errors but not serious so the whole so I've decided not to mention them here. There seems to be a lot of repetitive statements but the story can be followed.

Thank you again for the statements - I do appreciate receiving them & hope all goes well with the web site. I really felt I had to bring these points out. Hope to hear from you later.

Sincerely yours
Carol Huggins.

The enclosed is a note I received from Dorothy Lacks M.E.S. #1 in '98 which may have a relevance to M.E.S. history - for your archives.



*Thank
You
for the MFS archives*

RR #3, Centreville
Aug 26/98.

Dear Carol;

Many thanks for sending along the rather heavy & ponderous volume of Margaret Eaton history. I know Anna Lakrop (Course) reasonably well through friends & association w. Brock University. I was pleased to learn that the project was finally finished & she has her doctorate.

I have been mulling through it and am a little discouraged by a seeming over emphasis on sexuality and "homogeneity". I guess in those days I was just living & enjoying life, and accepted what was expected of us (with only minor complaints). Certainly in looking back on what is written, I realize that MES has strongly influenced my philosophies and convictions. But I do not share your sadness at the developments of the present day. It is a entirely different society and "milieu" now, and despite the ups & downs there has been progress, though in a very different way from the visions of the 3 Principals!

We are having another Reunion of the class of '41 in Ontario in mid-Sept, so receipt of the book is well timed. I wonder what I do with it next? Do drop in for a visit - but call in

64.4

advance. I'm 'on the road' a lot
with one thing + another -

Sincerely,

Sylvia

(Walker
class of 41)

Sylvia Ridgway is a non-traditional Batik artist working out of her home studio in Victoria, Prince Edward Island. Batik is an ancient technique of fabric decoration using a wax resist method. The images and colours of Prince Edward Island are captured in her unique landscapes, evocative of water colour paintings.

RR.3- Centerville NS

BOP 1 Jo

*The sender of this card is supporting the fight
against tuberculosis, asthma, and other lung diseases.*



Lung Association

When You Can't Breathe, Nothing Else Matters

Printed in Canada



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